WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET)

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International application No.

PCT/EP2004/051662

Re Box No. V

1.   In the present opinion, reference is made to the following documents:

D1 : US 2002/184393 A1 (FINN SEAN P ET AL) 5 December 2002 (2002-12-05)
D2 : EP 0 841 824 A (NIPPON ELECTRIC CO) 13 May 1998 (1998-05-13)

2.   INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1.   The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT,
because the subject matter of claim 1 is not novel as defined in Article 33(2) PCT.
Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses relate to this document):
A method for improved inter-domain routing between packet-oriented networks (see
page 2, paragraph 0018), according to which traffic to be transmitted to a destination
outside a packet-based network is distributed by one or more edge nodes of the
network over a plurality of inter-domain links (see page 2, paragraph 0019), the links
connecting the packet-oriented network to one or more other packet-oriented
networks via which the traffic is forwarded to the destination. (Figure 2).

3.   INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

3.1.   The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT,
because the subject matter of claim 2 is not novel as defined in Article 33(2) PCT.
Document D2 discloses (the references in parentheses relate to this document):
Method for determining alternative paths for multipath routing in a packet-oriented
network, which method includes the distribution of packets over a plurality of links
connecting different packet-oriented networks (Figure 1), wherein a calculation
method is used by means of which alternative paths between two nodes of the
network can be calculated, and to calculate alternative paths for routing to a

destination, the calculation method is used for a node of the network and an edge node of a neighboring network which is reachable via a plurality of links used for routing to the destination and connecting the network to the neighboring network (column 7, line 57 – column 8, line 35).

4.   INDEPENDENT CLAIM 3

4.1. The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of claim 3 is not novel as defined in Article 33(2) PCT. Document D2 discloses (the references in parentheses relate to this document) a: Method for determining paths for multipath routing in a packet-oriented network, which method includes the distribution of packets over a plurality of links connecting different packet-oriented networks (Figure 1), wherein to calculate the paths for routing to a destination, edge nodes of other networks which are reachable via a plurality of links used for routing to the destination are combined to form a single virtual node (column 18, lines 39-53; Figure 14).

5.   DEPENDENT CLAIMS 4, 5

Claims 4, 5 include no features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they relate, meet the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty or inventive step, because they are already disclosed in D2 (see .

6.   DEPENDENT CLAIMS 6-8

The person skilled in the art would regard it as a normal approach to combine all the features detailed in claims 6-8 with one another. The subject matter of claims 6-8 is consequently not based on an inventive step and therefore fails to meet the criterion cited in Article 33(3) PCT.